



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

MAY 30 2003

Reply To
Attn Of: OAQ-107

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon
254 State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Requesting Governor's Recommendation for PM 2.5 Area Designation

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

The purpose of this letter is to initiate the process for designating the attainment status of areas in your state with respect to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). On April 1, 2003, Jeffrey Holmstead, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, issued me a memorandum entitled "Designations for the Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standards." This memorandum, which I have enclosed for your reference, provides guidance and the process for completing these designations.

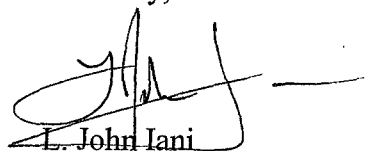
Fine particulate matter standards were promulgated by EPA in 1997 to address the serious health effects. Many health studies have correlated increased exposure to fine particles with increases in premature death, as well as a range of serious adverse respiratory and cardiovascular effects.

I am asking that you provide me by February 15, 2004, recommendations regarding the boundaries for areas that should be designated nonattainment, in accordance with Section 107(d)(1)(A) of the Clean Air Act. The recommended area designations should be based on quality-assured air quality monitoring data for calendar years 2000 to 2002. EPA intends to promulgate final designations by December 15, 2004. We will also consider data collected in 2003 before making a final designation.

Areas designated nonattainment will be required to adopt State Implementation Plans to bring the area into attainment. Thus, designations are a key step in the process of providing the health protections provided by the Clean Air Act. In the absence of state recommendations, EPA will promulgate the designations it deems appropriate, so I encourage you to provide recommendations to us in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 553-1234. Questions also may be directed to Dan Opalski, Acting Director, Office of Air Quality, at (206) 553-0837.

Sincerely,



L. John Iani
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Stephanie Hallock, Director, ODEQ
Andrew Ginsburg, Administrator for Air Quality, ODEQ